

Is This Sex Trafficking? Why It's Hard To Tell When Youth Are At Risk

Challenges in Sex Trafficking Identification

Youth rarely self-report

- Unaware sex trafficking is a crime
- Traffickers pose as boyfriends
- Unaware they are being trafficked

Sex trafficking is well-hidden

- Recruitment often happens online
- Trafficking behaviour happens behind closed doors

15% of over 100 child welfare workers surveyed in Ontario were unsure if their youths were involved in sex trafficking

Why are Child Welfare Workers Unsure?

Not enough
information about
key warning signs

Unfamiliar with
how to check for
sex trafficking signs

Limited
rapport
with youth



The YST Helps

The York-Simcoe Sex Trafficking Screener helps child welfare workers decide with confidence if their youth might be involved in sex trafficking